

Stinger team takes aim on the run

By Sgt. Paul Disney
29th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Trying to see through the thick haze rolling out of a smoke pot on the ground, Sgt. Royce Adams and Pfc. Curt Garrison scanned the sky, waiting for incoming enemy Apache helicopters to appear on the horizon.

The two air defense artillerymen of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment from Hanau, Germany had just climbed back onto a rooftop after a downpour forced them under cover at the Military Operations on Urban Terrain site on the Wedrzyn Training Area in Poland.

They could see the other Stinger team a few hundred meters away on the roof of a tower, watching the same dark gray clouds pass overhead. The low ceiling made the far-off landscape darker than normal, perfect for hiding an Apache in low-level flight.

This is the second Victory Strike exercise for Adams, who said the mission to Poland gave

him and his fellow air defense artillerymen the chance to “actually do our (job) training.”

The mock urban terrain they were operating in resembled a large village of about 50 buildings, which also added to the realism of the mission.

Said Garrison: “I like the area we’re training in. When we go into the field in Germany, there’s just a big field, and that’s it. I wouldn’t mind coming back here as long as we got to choose our own firing positions.”

The team suddenly became alert as Adams spotted an incoming helicopter to the west.

“Is that an O-C helo?” Adams asked out loud, squinting to close the distance between him and the aircraft. “No, that’s an Apache,” he answered himself, “O-Cs are in Black Hawks. Get ready.”

Adams moved to Garrison’s left, ready to direct the gunner, as he prepared to shoot down the attacker with a Stinger missile simulator. The helicopter was three or four kilometers from their position, still in range of the Stinger. Just as Garrison prepared



Photo by Spc. Luke Rollins

Stinger team Sgt. Royce Adams (right) and Pfc. Curt Garrison fire a simulated rocket at an Apache helicopter from a rooftop in the Military Operations on Urban Terrain training site at the Wedrzyn Training Area.

to down the aircraft, it dipped below the horizon. Immediately, Adams and Garrison searched the sky for new targets.

Glancing to the south, Adams spotted another Apache and directed Garrison to the new target. This time the Apache stayed up too long. The Atweiss round that simulates the missile’s backblast belched out the back end of the

tube with a popping sound and a small jet of fire and white smoke. Just as soon as he could, Adams reloaded another of the small simulators, and prepared for the next target.

The engagement lasted for approximately 30 minutes. Four Apaches were shot down in simulated combat. A successful hunt for the air defenders.

Corps helps prove value of new tracking systems

By Sgt. Brent Hunt
V Corps Public Affairs Office

During Victory Strike II, V Corps is helping to field new battlefield tracking systems that will revolutionize training by giv-

ing commanders a total near-real-time view of their maneuver units.

The systems are able to integrate every element on a training area, from tanks, trucks and helicopters to individual soldiers. They track all the action in a train-

ing event and provide a unit with a highly detailed computer record that allows the commander to conduct more immediate and thorough after-action reviews of a mission.

“This system gives command-

ers real fidelity. He can see all the parameters of the battle,” said William Brian, project manager for Inter-Coastal Electronics, the sys-

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U.S., Polish missile crews share expertise on mission

By Pfc. Jon Soucy

29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Hidden in the trees of Poland's Wedrzyn Training Area, members of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment and the Polish 23rd Brigade of Artillery wait for a fire order to engage enemy targets in the air.

When the order comes in, they break out of their camouflaged locations and rush their Multiple Launch Rocket Systems into the open to eliminate the threat. It is their job to take out hostile planes and helicopters.

"Our mission here is to integrate with the Polish army and conduct training as a combined battery," said Capt. Chas Smith, an operations officer with the 41st Field Artillery Brigade.

"We've set up our command and control vehicle next to their command and control vehicle, so that our leadership and their leadership can set up a combined battery operations center," Smith said.

When the fire order goes out, both U.S. and Polish forces execute it.

"Their equipment is a little older than ours," said Staff Sgt. Booker Newton, a launcher chief with C Battery, 1/27th. "It takes them a little longer to track their target," said Newton.

Members of the Polish battery agree, but said that despite their older equipment, they are still able to complete the mission.

"The Americans have computers. Polish soldiers have to do their job by hand," said Warrant Officer Rafal Szymanski, of the Polish 23rd Brigade of Artillery. "We have to work a little harder, but we get the job done."

But, perhaps more importantly, both the Americans and Polish are learning to work as a team.

"Their maintenance people help us fix our equipment," said Sgt. James Adams, a launcher chief with C Battery, 1/27th, describing one way the two armies are working together.

Smith agreed that the two armies have been working as one.

"Everyone's having a good time and our times (completing the fire mission) are getting quicker. We're learning to fight as a team, despite the language barrier," said Smith.



Photo by Pfc. Jon Soucy

Pvt. Marcin Rozmus of the Polish 23rd Brigade of Artillery, adjusts targeting information on a Polish Multiple Launch Rocket System during a combined mission involving the Polish MLRS crew and a crew from V Corps' C Battery, 1st Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment.

Read Vanguard and Stars & Stripes on your computer!

To access the Victory Strike II newspaper **Vanguard** and **The Stars & Stripes** on your computer, follow the instructions below for your location in the exercise.

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Victory Strike II Protestant Bible Studies

Bible studies are conducted at noon and 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Ziemsko Airfield Dining Facility.



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Victory Strike II helps prove battlefield systems

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tem's designer.

The Collective Tactical Engagement Simulation System (C-TESS) tracks the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and helicopters. The Deployable Instrumentation Training System (DITS) tracks tanks and personnel. Every piece of equipment and personnel is equipped with a tracking device, which sends a radio signal back to the C-TESS and DITS to track their movements.

"We can tell which way (an) aircraft is going, its velocity and its altitude. We can track everything they do, even its weapon system," said Capt. George Walter, plans officer for the Deployable Operations Group (DOG), Directorate of Training, 7th Army Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.

The C-TESS monitors every MLRS and helicopter with a Smart Onboard Data Information Modules (SMODIMS).

The SMODIMS transmit unique identification numbers and battle information for each piece of equipment. So the C-TESS knows everything that is happening with that piece of equipment, even how many rockets it has fired.

The DITS works the same as the C-TESS, but is used for tanks and personnel. This system can simulate artillery, mortars and minefields. Personnel are tracked with a battery pack and a Global Positioning System unit attached to a special vest.

The systems were first tested in Grafenwoehr and then used in a live-fire exercise, but Victory Strike is the first time they've put to use in a large-



Photo by Sgt. Brent Hunt

Pfc. Kevin Updegraff, an Apache crew chief with C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry, 11th Aviation Regiment, inspects the mounting on his helicopter's Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System Aegis II on the Ziemsko Airfield at Drawsko Pomorski, Poland. The Aegis works hand-in-hand with several new systems for tracking battlefield actions that are being tested during Victory Strike II.

scale exercise, said Staff Sgt. Ron Broulette, master tank gunner, DOG.

In the past, what the new systems do could only be done at large U.S. maneuver training centers where repeater towers that transmit the battle information are located, such as the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., Broulette said. Now it can be done anywhere.

"It's like a portable National Training Center on a small scale," Broulette added.

In the past, at the conclusion of an exercise, a unit would do a "talking after-action review," he said, and examine every "hit" an observer physically saw during the training.

"This puts it all on computer," Broulette said.

"It's like a MILES system on

steroids," said Walter.

Another benefit of the systems is that they allow a unit to train as it prepares for battle. For instance, said Clarence Morton, a DOG deployment operations specialist, a unit in Kosovo can begin a training mission, "pause" the recording of that training when called on for real-world duties, then return to finish their training later.

The DOG recently purchased the system and its members are being trained during Victory Strike II by experts from Inter-Coastal and Saab so the system can be fielded USAREUR-wide. The system can be functional in half a day and can go anywhere a unit goes.

"The system is completely

portable. We can be gone in two hours," said Walter.

If the systems are successful at Victory Strike, they will see their first real mission in Kosovo in the coming months, said Morton.

The SMODIMS are also being delivered to the United Kingdom for their new WAH-64 Apache helicopters, said Brian. Most NATO countries have expressed interest in the system and all countries that have Apaches have expressed interest, he added.

"This system can be extremely useful to prevent fratricide. It gives an overview of the entire battlefield and we can tell exactly where each piece of our equipment is during training and where rounds were fired. We can instrument aircraft from every service," said Erin Stadtfeld, engineer, Inter-Coastal Electronics.

News clips

U.S. officials say they have evidence the Russian airliner that crashed into the Black Sea yesterday was accidentally shot down by a Ukrainian surface-to-air missile fired during military exercises.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw broadcast a message to the people of Afghanistan early today, assuring them the international coalition has "no quarrel" with them, and wants only to bring peace to their country. **No terrorism was involved in the case** of pulmonary anthrax reported in Florida, officials say. In rare cases, they said, the non-contagious disease can be contracted naturally.

In spite of an agreed-upon truce with the Palestinians, Israeli forces stormed Hebron. Six Palestinians were reported killed in the attack, which included assaults by Israeli tanks.

Sports

Former boxing champion Roberto Duran is in stable condition after suffering a collapsed lung and several broken ribs in a car accident in Argentina. Officials say alcohol may have been involved.

Barry Bonds finally caught up with Mark McGwire, hitting his 70th homer of the season, a 454-foot shot off Houston rookie Wilfredo Rodriguez that ties McGwire's single-season record.

Rickey Henderson now holds a record that belonged to the legendary Ty Cobb for 73 years. Henderson slid into home for career run 2,246 last night in Los Angeles.

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy with low temperatures in the mid-40s to low 50s, highs in the upper 50s to mid-60s.

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy with possible scattered showers. Low temperatures in the upper 40s, high temperatures in the upper 50s to mid-60s.

(Weather reports are based on an average of forecasts for Berlin, Germany and Warsaw, Poland.)

News Roundup

Report says U.S. 'can bet on' more attempts by terrorists

U.S. intelligence officials have warned members of Congress it is highly probable militants linked to Osama bin Laden will attempt another major attack on U.S. targets at home or abroad in the near future, the Washington Post reported Friday.

The assessment, based on what officials described as credible new information, was presented at a classified briefing Tuesday by the FBI, the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Post said.

One official said there was a "100 percent chance" of an attack should the United States strike Afghanistan, which has repeatedly rejected U.S. demands to hand over bin Laden.

One senior official said some of the new information is "very real," but also cautioned that some may be braggadocio or intentional disinformation designed to discourage the U.S. from retaliating.

The United States has been massing military forces in the Gulf region and has

warned Afghanistan it faces possible strikes if bin Laden is not turned over.

The new information comes from sources in England, Germany, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and officials believe Egyptian, Somali and Pakistani elements of bin Laden's al Qaeda extremist network may be involved, the newspaper said.

Members of Congressional intelligence committees declined to comment on the briefings, which are classified. But the Post reported that officials at the White House, the Justice Department and State Department have been discussing the best way to convey the new concern to the public.

"We have to believe there will be another attempt by a terrorist group to hit us again," Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the ranking Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told the Post.

"You can just about bet on it. That's just something you have to believe will happen."

U.S. may use air strikes to back up Afghan aid package

A senior U.S. defense official indicated Thursday the United States is considering pre-emptive strikes against air defense sites in Afghanistan to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian aid.

President Bush has announced a \$320 million humanitarian aid package for the people of Afghanistan. Anticipating U.S.-led military strikes, many Afghans have attempted to flee into Pakistan.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in Cairo, Egypt, refused to say whether the option was under consideration.

Rumsfeld confirmed the Pentagon is drawing up plans for airdrops of food and

medicine for the Afghan people, but would not say how the planes would be protected from the threat of Taliban surface-to-air missiles.

The influx of new refugees along the border and the approach of winter could lead to massive starvation, international aid workers fear.

As a precursor to possible U.S. military action, Pentagon sources said the U.S. government is considering airdropping transistor radios into Afghanistan to allow Afghan citizens to hear broadcasts produced by the U.S. State Department or military psychological operations units.